

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending and stand rejected. Specifically, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0186620 to Addy et al. ("Addy") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0180600 to Kirkland et al. ("Kirkland"). The Applicant traverses these rejections for the reasons stated below.

The Addy reference describes a system whereby a portable timepiece (e.g., a wristwatch) creates a time signal and this signal is used to synchronize a clock function of a control panel (Addy, paragraph 11). Addy contemplates that the synchronization can occur in two different ways (Addy, paragraph 26). In the first way, the wristwatch automatically sends a signal to the control panel at the same time every day (Addy, paragraph 27). In the second way, a user manually presses control buttons on the wristwatch and a signal is transmitted to the control panel to perform the synchronization (Addy, paragraph 29).

In either of these cases, a portable time piece device carried by a human user must be positioned in close proximity so as to be in range of the security system and a specifically directed signal is sent from this portable timepiece to the security system (Addy, paragraphs 32-33). The signal is not generally available to the control panel over a substantial time period and, in fact, is only transmitted for a very short period of time (e.g., once a day or whenever the user decides to manually send the signal).

In contrast, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that a *generally available* wireless time signal is received and this signal is used to reset a receiver whenever the time-of-day signal at the receiver is different from the received generally available wireless signal. The Applicant's claimed signal is different from Addy's temporarily available signal in several respects. For instance, the generally continuous nature of the Applicant's signal ensures that a clock at a moveable

barrier can be re-synchronized quickly very soon after the clock becomes unsynchronized. The near constant correction capability provided by the Applicant's approach enables a moveable barrier such as a garage door to be accurately opened or closed at any time of day despite events that might tend to constantly unsynchronize the clock. This capability is not provided by the Addy system, which may become unsynchronized and become re-synchronized only after a substantial amount of time passes. Since amended claim 1 includes an element that is not taught or suggested in the proposed combination, it is believed that claim 1 is allowable.

The other pending independent claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 have been amended to recite that the wireless time signal is a generally available time signal and it is believed that these claims are allowable for the same reasons as those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

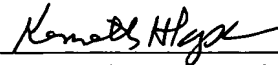
In addition, with respect to claim 13, the claim recites that a generally available wireless signal is received at a receiver and forwarded to an operator in order to actuate the operator. In this example, the generally available signal itself, for instance, an atomic clock signal from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite, may be used to directly actuate the operator. In other words, clock re-synchronization is not required in this approach because the received time signal is used directly in the making of time-based decisions. The combination proposed by the Office Action does not teach or suggest the steps of directly actuating an operator using a generally available wireless signal. Thus, claim 13 is allowable for this additional reason.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly upon the independent claims 1, 6, 7, 13, and 14. Since the independent claims are allowable, it is believed that the dependent claims are also allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in the Application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135

Application No. 10/145,799  
Reply to Office Action of February 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,  
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